

AN A B S T R A C T
O F T H E
D E E D O F S E T T L E M E N T
O F T H E B E N E V O L E N T S O C I E T Y A T
S T A F F O R D,
F O R T H E B E N E F I T O F
W I D O W S A N D F A T H E R L E S S C H I L D R E N.

Approved by COUNSEL, and to be enrolled in the HIGH COURT of
CHANCERY, bearing Date the first Day of January 1770.

WITH A PREFARATORY DISCOURSE ON THE OCCASION

By a M E M B E R.

WOLVERHAMPTON; Printed by G. SMART.



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To the present, and future, Members of the
Benevolent Society of STAFFORD, for
the Benefit of WIDOWS, and FATHERLESS
CHILDREN.

GENTLEMEN,

WHATEVER Institution is calculated to soften, and alleviate, the common Distresses and Miseries of Human Life, merits the Approbation, and Encouragement of Society in general. Certainly then, those Individuals for whose particular Advantage such Establishments are intended; should exert their joint Endeavours to promote and encourage an Institution, intended, to prevent the impending Distresses, and supply the Necessities of a surviving and forlorn Family.

What part of the Human Species demands our Care, and claims our Assistance, more, than unprovided WIDOWS and their helpless INFANT CHILDREN?---The soothing Voice of Pity, and the fostering Hand of Charity, both, both unite, and ask for Aid, in favour of such Unfortunates.

How often do we see whole Families involv'd in the most calamitous Circumstances, solely occasioned, by the
A 2 death

death of an industrious Husband, and indulgent Father, whose unwearied Labours could do little more, than supply himself, his Wife and Family, with a comfortable, or perhaps at most, a genteel Sufficiency?---No sooner doth he take his last farewell, but the gloomy, intruding Hand of dispiriting Melancholy seizes the disconsolate Wife, and the keenest Want the fatherless Children.---Who, unmov'd, can behold them thus transfix'd in the Gulph of Ruin and Despair? Surely none.---In this deplorable situation, let the humane, and sympathizing Man, take only a transient View; his pitying Soul, attracted, feels the heavy pressure, and rude assailing gripe of Poverty.

The affecting consideration of human Infelicities, have, no doubt, excited Men of generous Minds, and affluent Fortunes, to erect, and endow Hospitals, Infirmarys, and many other noble Institutions, for the good, and happiness of Mankind. Indeed it is natural for Men distinguished for Humanity, and bless'd with Abilities, to promote and contrive the happiness and welfare of Society.---Thus the generous Friends of Humanity, with unremitted Application, remove, as far as possible, the Evils of Mankind.

Certainly

Certainly those Men, whose benevolent Minds lead them to imitate great Examples, and forward laudable Undertakings, deserve to stand, at least, in the portal of the Temple of Fame, as they point out to applauding Votaries greater, and more honourable Virtues, than those, which immortaliz'd the marbl'd Heroes.

I could wish I was authoriz'd to point out to the Members of this Society the Institutor and Encourager of the STAFFORD SOCIETY for the benefit of WIDOWS and FATHERLESS CHILDREN ; but this extreme Modesty, and native Goodness of Heart forbid me, and indeed render useless the least Encomiums.

If a Man, without a depending Family, and at present disengaged from connubial Connections, interests himself, and exerts all his influence, to insure success to this Society, I hope, I would rather say expect, that Masters of Families, especially those, distinguished for affection to their Wives, and Children, will at least embrace the easy Means plan'd out by it's generous Patron.---The large Premiums, and annual Subscriptions required by other Societies of this Nature, prevent and make it impossible, for the inferior Class of Mankind to become Members : but this being

ing prudently divided into three different Classes, the inferior Gentry, Clergy, Tradesmen, nay even the Mechanic, and common Labourer, may now have an opportunity of leaving behind him, a comfortable Annuity for the Life of his Widow, and a pleasing support for her infant Family.

These are such desirable Advantages, such Legacies of Affection, and such Monuments of conjugal Love, and parental Esteem, that the once affectionate Wife will remember with Gratitude, and teach her lisping Children to join in chorusing the kind surviving Pledges of an honour'd and indulgent Father.

Yours Gentlemen,

J. C.



AN A B S T R A C T
O F T H E
D E E D O F S E T T L E M E N T.
O F T H E B E N E V O L E N T S O C I E T Y O F
S T A F F O R D,
F O R T H E B E N E F I T O F
W I D O W S A N D F A T H E R L E S S C H I L D R E N.

The Preamble of the DEED of SETTLEMENT is to this Effect.

T H A T the Parties have agreed to become a Society, and enter into a voluntary Subscription to raise a Fund for the Benefit and Advantage of their WIDOWS and FATHERLESS CHILDREN, and the WIDOWS and FATHERLESS CHILDREN of all other Persons, that shall hereafter be admitted Subscribers to this Society, the Use of this Joint Stock, or Fund, so raised, is to pay to such WIDOWS and FATHERLESS CHILDREN, the several Sums or Yearly Annuities, herein after mentioned, for their better Support and Maintenance.

THE

A R T I C L E S.

The Condition of members to be admitted.

THAT no Person be admitted a Member after January 1st. 1770, but by the approbation of the majority of Directors at their Meetings, assigned, by the Society, and that every such Person be of unblemish'd Character and sound Constitution, and that no Person shall be admitted under the Age of Twenty One Years, and all above Forty to be subject to the Conditions of the Seventh Article.

All Members subject to the Deed & Articles.

II. All Persons, subscribing the Deed of Settlement, shall be deemed Members, and be bound by the Covenants and Agreements therein mentioned, and conform to all other Rules and Articles already made, and what may hereafter be made, or be subject to the Penalties agreed by these Articles.

No Soldier, or Sailor to be admitted.

III. No Soldier or Sailor to be admitted a Member of this Society, and any Member becoming such, to be excluded, (Militia excepted.)

IV. Every

IV. Every Person proposing to be a Member, ^{Method of} to give in his Name, Residence, Age, Title, or ^{of Admission} Profession, and also the Name and Age of his Wife, with her Maiden Name, one Month at least before his Admission, and shall certify that he hath had the Small Pox, and make the following Declaration, (viz) " That he is in a good State ^{Declaration.} of Health, and hath no Distemper or Disorder, to the best of his Knowledge, which may tend to the shortening of his Days."

V. Persons imposing upon the Society, and are ^{Members} admitted under false Representations of themselves, ^{imposing up-} shall be excluded, and their Wives (if such Mem- ^{on the Socie-} bers be married) Deed of Settlement, or Policy ^{to have no} destroyed, provided the Discovery be made in the ^{Benefit.} Life Time of such Members.

VI. Each Member upon his Admission to pay ^{What is to} to the Managers or Trustees, or to the Treasurer, ^{be paid on} 6s. 6d. for his Declaration, printed Articles, and ^{Admission.} Policy, and a Premium proportionate to their re-
spective Subscriptions, viz. An annual Subscriber ^{First Class.} of Two Guineas to pay Five Guineas; a Sub-^{Second Class.} scriber

Third Class. scribe of One Guinea to pay Two Guineas and a Half; and a Subscriber of Half a Guinea to pay One Pound Six Shillings and Three Pence, at his, or their, Admission or Entrance. The WIDOWS and CHILDREN of each Class of Subscribers to be paid their Annuities by Half Yearly Payments, according to the following Scheme. viz.

1st Class.		2d Class.		3d Class.	
Years	L.	Years	L.	Years	L. S.
2 —	12	2 —	6	2 —	3
3 —	14	3 —	7	3 —	3 10
4 —	16	4 —	8	4 —	4
5 —	18	5 —	9	5 —	4 10
6 —	20	6 —	10	6 —	5
7 —	22	7 —	11	7 —	5 10
8 —	24	8 —	12	8 —	6
10 —	26	10 —	13	10 —	6 10
11 —	28	11 —	14	11 —	7
12 —	30	12 —	15	12 —	7 10

A Year.

Persons admitted between 40 & 45; & 45 & 50 to pay extra Premiums.

VII. Persons above the Age of Forty Years (that may be admitted after the 1st of January 1770) to pay an extra Premium of two Pounds two Shillings, for every Year, from Forty to Forty Five, and from Forty Five to Fifty to pay three Pounds three Shillings for every Year so advanced in Age, and no Person to be admitted above the Age of Fifty.

VIII. Each

VIII. Each Member to pay their respective Annual Subscriptions (according to each Class of Subscribers) at two equal Payments, (viz.) The first Tuesday in January, and the first Tuesday in July, or within ten Days, or forfeit to the Joint Stock, for the first half Years neglect, five Shillings; and in case of a whole Year's omission, to forfeit ten Shillings, or be then excluded. Every Member to pay at every General Meeting (to be held on the first Tuesday in July) one Shilling and Six-pence each, to defray the Expences of such Meeting, &c.; that the Capital Stock may not be lessened.

Forfeitures
for neglect
of Payment.

IX. Members dying the Day after their Admission, their Widows, and Child or Children, to be intitled to their Annuities, (agreeable to the Deed of Settlement) paying the full Subscription, and all Payments according to Articles for two successive Years, from the Date of Admission. Before the expiration of two compleat Years, no Annuities take Place; and no Annuity to commence 'till the Half yearly Pay-day next after the Hus-

Members
dying the
Day after
Admission.

When the
Annuities
are to take
place.

band's Decease. And if the Death of the Husband be not ascertained by certain Proofs, or by Certificate to the Satisfaction of the Managers, no Annuity will be paid.

Widows
marrying
again.

X. The Widow of any Member marrying again, and her Husband paying, at the next Quarterly Meeting after such Marriage, her last Year's clear Annuity, and all Arrears of the Annual Payment (according to the Class such Member is a Subscriber to). And also paying for a Policy and the Articles, and continuing the Annual Subscription and Payments, shall be entitled to receive his said Wife's Annuity during her Life. But upon her Decease, shall receive no further Benefit from the Society, unless he is again admitted a Member by marrying the Widow of another deceased Member of this Society, and conforming to the Rules contained in this Article. If she survives her second Husband, to be entitled to an Advance of Two Pounds per Annum for the first Class, and so in Proportion for every other Class on her late Husband's Annuity, provided he was a Member one clear

clear Year before his Death. The said Annuity not to exceed Thirty Pounds per Annum for the first Class, and so in Proportion for every other Class, except the Widow marry a Member; in which Case she shall be entitled to receive what both her Husbands had raised by their Subscriptions, not exceeding Thirty-six Pounds per Ann. for the first Class, and so in Proportion for every other Class.

XI. If a Member of this Society should be disposed to leave, by Will, any Part of the Annuity arising from his Subscription to his Child, or Children, born of his then Wife, he is hereby empowered so to do, in such Proportion, to such Child, or Children, as he shall think proper, not exceeding one Half of such Annuity. And should he die Intestate, then such Half, of such Annuity, shall go to his Child, or Children, in equal Shares, but to no other Person whatever, except his Widow. If the Widow should marry again, and her future Husband, and her then Child, or Children, or either of them, or his, her, or their Guardian, or Guardians,

Power of a
Member to
leave by will

dians, shall conform to the Xth Article of this Societies Rules, then she, he, or they, shall be entitled to such Annuity, and in such Proportion as aforesaid, during the Life of such Widow only.

What is required of widows before their receiving their annuities.

XII. Widows and Childrens Annuities to be paid by the Managers, Trustees, or Treasurer, Half yearly, either to the Widows, or Children, themselves, or to any Person, or Persons, properly authorized by them, producing sufficient Testimonies of the Widows being alive, and unmarried. Widows refusing to make such Declaration, not to receive their Annuities, but be excluded.

What is required of a Widower to be continued a Member on his second Marriage.

XIII. Any Member becoming a Widower, and continuing his Subscription, and also paying, within one Month after Marriage with a second Wife, a Premium, &c. (the same that he paid at his first Admission) she, at his Decease, shall be entitled to the joint Annuity raised by both Subscriptions, agreeable to the Scheme in the VIth Article; provided she, at her Marriage, was not ten Years younger than her Husband. In which Case, her Annuity

Annuity shall not exceed the Sum of Twenty-four Pounds for the first Class; and in like Proportion for every other Class.

XIV. For the immediate Establishment of the Society, twenty-four of the first Subscribers are constituted Trustees, and Directors, 'till the first of January, 1771, who are empowered to fix a Common Seal for the Society, chuse a Secretary, provide Books, and do all other Things, which shall appear to be necessary, from Time to Time. The Directors shall also order the Policies to be made out, receive the Premiums, and other Payments; and shall provide a proper Depository for all Monies, belonging to the Society, and Securities for the same, &c.

Twenty four
of the Sub-
scribers to be
Trustees and
Directors
till the 1st of
Jan. 1771

XV. Two General Meetings are to be held in every Year, viz. on the first Tuesday in January, and the first Tuesday in July, or oftener, if the Directors, or any of the Members, to the Number of Twelve, shall require the same: At which General Meetings, all the Members may be present: And if any more General Meetings shall be required.

How often
General
Meetings
are to be
called and
with what
power they
are invested.

quired, as above directed, proper Notice shall be given in the BIRMINGHAM GAZETTE, or by other proper Means. If such General Meetings have twenty-four Members present, they shall have Power to determine all Matters belonging to the Society; and to alter, or amend, the Deed, and to make any additional Rules or Articles, so as they be confirmed by a second General Meeting: And, if necessary, be inrolled in the High Court of Chancery; but no Rules, or Articles, can be made, or altered, that have a Tendency to destroy, or invalidate, the present Deed of Settlement.

General
Meeting on
the first of
January to
chuse 24
Directors.

Directors
to chuse 12
Trustees &
their Business

XVI. The Society, at their General Meeting, on the first Tuesday in January, are annually to chuse by Ballot, or Vote, twenty-four Members to be their Directors, or Managers; and the twenty-four Directors shall, by Ballot, or Vote, chuse, from among themselves, twelve Trustees: And three of the Trustees shall sign all Policies, &c. And all Securities, and Deeds, are to be made in their Names, for the Use of the said Society. In Case the Trustees shall be reduced to six in Number

ber, the Directors to fill up the said Vacancies from among themselves, for the Remainder of that Year.

XVII. The Directors, and Trustees, to report at the General Meetings, the State of the Society, and it's Accounts, by Way of Debtor and Creditor: And also report the true State of the Stock, and other Effects, of the Society, by a printed Copy, to each Member, on every second Tuesday in July, or within one Month after. All Members are at Libery to inspect, at all convenient Times, the Deed of Settlement, with all subsequent Orders, and Proceedings, all Books of Accounts, and Securities, for their Satisfaction.

Directors at General Meetings to Report the State of the Society.

The Members at Libery to Inspect the Deed &c.

XVIII. Trustees to elect annually from among themselves, or otherwise, a Treasurer, who shall give, and enter into, proper Declarations of Trust; and shall also enter into such Covenants, Securities, Obligations, and Agreements, as the remainder of the Directors shall require, the Security not exceeding double the Sum in Hand.

Election of Treasurer.

C

XIX. Three

Electional
Business of
Auditors,
&c.

XIX. Three Members (not being Trustees and Directors) to be annually chosen Auditors; and any two of them shall inspect, and examine, the Accounts of the Directors, and Trustees, and other Accounts of the Society; and report their Proceedings to the Society. And the Directors shall, as occasion requires, order the Balance of of such Accounts to be paid into the Hands of the Treasurer: And all Securities, and other Deeds, shall by them be put into the Chest with three Locks, provided for such purpose. The Keys to be kept by three of the Trustees, or by the Treasurer, and two of the Trustees; and the Chest never to be opened, but in the presence of three of the Trustees.

Indemnifi-
cation of
Trustees &
Directors,
and Pu-
nishment of
Offenders.

XX. Trustees, and Directors, to be indemnified for any Loss, the same not happening through wilful neglect: And that each Person shall be answerable only for his own Act, and Deed; and that such Loss shall be made good out of the Society's Stock; but if the Society sustain any Loss through

thro' the wilful neglect or misconduct of any Member, such Offender shall lose the Benefit thereof.

XXI. The Directors are to meet when, where, and as often, as they shall think proper (at least quarterly). Such Meetings to be held within the Corporation of STAFFORD; at which Meetings twelve of the Trustees, and Directors, may dispatch all Business relating to the Society; except in Cases where a greater Number is by Articles required.

How often
Directors
are to Meet
and what
number re-
quired.

XXII. If any Member shall use indecent Language, or by any other Means, make himself troublesome, and disagreeable, to the Society, at any Meeting, such Member shall pay such a fine as the Directors shall appoint, not exceeding Five Shillings: And if such Member refuses, after Admonition, to comply, his Widow, and Children, at his Decease, shall only receive two Thirds of the Annuity assigned them by Deed of Settlement.

Abusive Be-
haviour how
Punish'd.

XXIII. In Case any of the Directors, or Trustees, shall die, or if any of them do not act in their respective Trusts, for three successive Meetings, or

Directors
&c. Dy-
ing or Dis-
charged o-
thers Elect-
ed to fill up
the Vacan-
cies,

misbehave themselves, they shall be discharged from their Trusts, and others elected in the Room of those dying, or discharged.

When the Societies Money amounts to 100l to be set out.

XXIV. As often as the Cash, paid to the Society, shall amount to One Hundred Pounds, or to such Sum, as will purchase a Hundred Pounds Stock ; the same shall be immediately placed out on Government Securities.

The Method to be taken if the Payments should be Insufficient.

XXV. If it should ever happen, that the Interest, and other Profits arising, from the capital Stock of the Society, with the annual Subscriptions, or Payments, shall not be sufficient to answer the Widows, and fatherless Childrens, Annuities, and the Charges of the Society ; then the Directors shall charge the Members to make good the Sum deficient ; provided such Sum does not exceed one Year's Subscription ; and those Members, who refuse to pay the Sum required, shall be excluded.

Augmentation of Annuities when the Stock amounts to

XXVI. As soon as the capital Stock of the Society shall exceed Two Thousand Pounds for One Hundred Members, and so in Proportion for any greater Number of Members ; then the Trustees, and

and Directors, may, at the General Annual Meeting, make an Order for the Augmentation of the Widow's, and fatherless Children's, Annuities, in Proportion to the Years their Husbands, and Fathers, have been Subscribers; provided the same does not reduce the capital Stock of Two Thousand Pounds, or other farther Sum in Proportion to the Number of Subscribers above one Hundred.

XXVII. Widowers, and Batchelors, disposed, and desirous, of being Members, may be admitted, conforming to the Rules of the Society.

Widowers
& Batchelors
may be
admitted.

XXVIII. Persons excluded, and expelled, the Society, shall not be entitled to any Demand in Consequence of their Subscriptions, or other Monies by them paid: And their Widows, and Children, also to be excluded from their Annuities; and such Persons never to be re-admitted.

Persons ex-
cluded, their
Widows &
Children to
have no An-
nuity.

XXIX. If any Widow shall assign her Annuity; the same, from thenceforth, shall cease, determine, and be utterly void; except to the Child, or Children, she had by her subscribing Husband, or Husbands.

No Widow
to Assign her
Annuity ex-
cept to her
Child or
Children.

XXX. A

Election of
a Chairman
& Business.

XXX. A Chairman to be elected, at every first Annual Meeting, out of the Directors, and Trustees ; who shall act, and continue, as such, at every Meeting that Year : And in Case of an Equality of Votes upon any Business, which requires a Majority to determine, the Chairman shall have a double, or casting Vote : And if the Chairman shall be absent, at any of the Meetings, the Majority of the Trustees, and Directors, then present, shall chuse another, out of their Number, to act in his Absence.

N. B. All Monies subscribed, will be invested in the public Funds, in the Names of the Trustees, for the Use of the BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, at STAFFORD, for the Benefit of WIDOWS, and FATHERLESS CHILDREN ; which Trustees must give a Declaration of Trust for the same.

F I N I S.

The undermentioned PERSONS were the Promoters and
Establishers of this Undertaking.

John Eld Esqr. Treasurer.

John Cheadle, Secretary.

The Rev. Mt. Unett.

Benjamin Godwin.

James Godwin.

John Godwin.

Abraham Bullock.

Robert Silvester.

Thomas Kingstone.

Thomas Calkin.

Thomas Acton.

Richard Hughes.

Joseph Turnock.

John Sharp.

Samuel Peake.

Francis Kingstone.

Peter Brown.

Newton Ikin.

Thomas Badger.

William Barnes.

James Smith.

John Kingstone.

Joseph Dickenson.

William Bickley.

John Padmore.

Philip Seckerson.

Robert Haywood.

John Holeranshaw.

John Ryley.

Thomas Westbrook.

John Newbold.

Edward Cheadle.

John Clarke.

William Kaye.

Walter Dickenson.

Robert Sutton.

Richard Wright.

Edward Clarke.

Robert Hopley.

Edmund Hill.

Arthur Davis.

Joshua Devey.

George Smart.

Rev. Mr. Hartshorne.

